GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:444
ANSWERED ON:20.02.2003
US AIRCRAFT FORCED TO LAND AT MUMBAI AIRPORT
M.H. AMBAREESH

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether an US registered Aircraft was forced to land at Mumbai;

(b) if so, the details of the matter;

(c) whether the Pilot and other crew members have been interrogated to know exactly the motive behind flying over a restricted zone;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether similar intrusions have been reported by unidentified aircraft over Indian air space recently; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Union Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES)

(a) & (b): Yes, Sir. A non-scheduled American registered Boeing 757 aircraft on flight from Karachi to Male was advised to land at Mumbai airport at 1811 hours on 3rd February, 2003 as it violated the authorised Air Traffic Services route.

(c) & (d): The Captain of the aircraft was interrogated. In his written statement to the concerned authorities he stated that he was not aware of the restriction on this route. The aircraft was directed by Karachi air traffic control to fly from Karachi to Male via route N-519 to Mumbai. From investigations by the concerned agencies it was found that the straying by the pilot was not intentional. The violation occurred due to his lack of knowledge about the route. Besides, the crew were not guided properly by the Karachi air traffic controller prior to their departure from Karachi.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.